

CALL-IN NOTICE

To be completed by Members of the Public, as per the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 46.5.

To: The Director of Legal and Governance Services

1. Notice of Call-In of Executive Decision

In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 46.5, we, the 150 signatories to this call-in notice (see numbered continuation sheets overleaf), being members of the public registered on the electoral roll of the London Borough of Harrow, hereby give notice that we wish to call-in the Executive decision detailed in section 2 below.

2. Details of Executive Decision

The details of the Executive decision are as follows:-

Decision: Grant Funding 2011-12

Made by: Cabinet / Cllr. Rekha Shah - Community & Culture
(Cabinet/relevant Portfolio Holder)

Published on: 12th April 2011
(Date)

3. Grounds for Call-In

(Please specify below the grounds for the call-in, in accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 46.5. Please note that, in the event that this call-in is referred to the Call-in Sub-Committee, the considerations of the Sub-Committee will focus on the grounds stated, and the Sub-Committee will seek evidence to support them. Please therefore also set out below details of the evidence to support the grounds for call-in, continuing on a separate sheet if necessary).

- 1) Consultation Process was inadequate (see attached)
- 2) Act not appropriate to the outcome (see attached)
- 3) Human Rights (see attached)

Also see letter re the impact on ShopMobility

1. Consultation Process was inadequate

Although our Office Manager (new to this position) attended a meeting about completing the application form, very little information was actually given at this meeting. Most of the time was taken up with discussion groups, with very little information given to the actual filling in of the form itself, and the criteria required to complete the form adequately.

2. Act not appropriate to the outcome

Our clients/users are trying to lead independent lives and our services help them in their aims. Refusal of this grant application will cause the closure of Harrow and Wealdstone Shopmobility before Christmas this year, unless further core funding is made available or found. There will be an added burden put upon Adult Services by this section of residents in order for them to live their lives as independently as they would like. This will also mean that our clients will no longer be able to use any of the facilities within Harrow's town centre due to being unable to access them.

The majority use our facilities to access the shops, banks, cinemas, library and other amenities that they would not be able to access without the use of our scooters and wheelchairs. In many cases our clients use their free taxi allowance to get to our shop so that they can use our scooters to do all of their shopping, banking and other services they need in one visit. Without us they would be condemned to remain in their homes as they would have no way to get around Harrow to do what they do now.

We also have many referrals from local sources such as the Red Cross, Northwick Park Hospital (via Social Services) as well as other charities who refer their clients to us to provide them with wheelchairs on a longer term loan where they have incurred an injury or are recovering from an operation and require a chair for a short period. We also provide wheelchairs to community homes etc. that need a number of chairs to enable them to take a party of their residents on an outing or holiday. All of these services would have to be met from another source or stop altogether if we are forced to close.

3. Human rights

We consider that the Human Rights of these residents are being undermined and their dignity and independence will, to a large degree, be lost.

Without our service our clients would be unable to do the everyday things that they do now, making them virtual prisoners in their homes, with no way for them to go out and do the things that a fit or mobile person takes for granted.

This would obviously have a serious mental as well as physical effect on the well being of those involved, being confined to the same four walls for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Once completed, please forward this form to Alison Atherton or Claire Vincent, Legal & Governance Services, Harrow Council, Room 127, Civic Centre, HA1 2UH or send it by fax to 020 8424 1557 WITHIN 5 CLEAR WORKING DAYS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION.

The Director of Legal and Governance Services
Harrow Council
Room 127, Civic Centre
Harrow
HA1 2UH

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are requesting a Call-In on the recent Cabinet decision to refuse our grant application for £22,000 funding from the Council for the year 2011/12. The main reasons for this are as follows:

1. Inadequate consultation with stakeholders prior to the decision.
2. That the matter should be referred back to the decision-maker for reconsideration.
3. The action is not proportionate to the desired outcome.
4. A potential human rights challenge

We believe that, apart from rudimentary guidance in how to complete the application forms, there has been scant consultation with us about this process. There has most certainly been very little assessment of the impact the withdrawal of our grant funding will have on Shopmobility as an organisation and also to the disabled residents of Harrow. The funding of this grant is mainly used to cover the one paid member of staff on a part-time basis. Without this grant, this post will no longer be funded and the future of our service as it stands is at serious risk.

Shopmobility not only provides mobility and opportunities for disabled residents to get out, who otherwise would not do so, but it also provides wheelchairs on short-term loans for holidays and periods after a stay in hospital – a vital 'stop gap' which has been acknowledged by both the NHS and your own Social Services department, who seem unable to cope with demand. By closing us down (which the loss of funding could bring about) does this mean that your Social Services department will, in future, be able to provide this service to residents having either long-term or short-term disabilities?

Shopmobility operates on a relative shoestring and delivers so much. The positive impact it is able to have on disabled residents' lives should not be underestimated. This is why we believe that the negative impact the removal of grant funding will have on our organisation is totally disproportionate, considering the relatively small sum involved.

We cannot believe that the benefit derived by many hundreds of disabled and isolated Harrow residents, for whom the services of Shopmobility are an indispensable 'lifeline', is to be thrown away so cheaply.

At Shopmobility, we fully support the Council's vision "Working together, Our Harrow our Community". We also understand that the Council has the following Corporate priorities:

- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads

These are our priorities too and we feel that, by properly understanding the work that Shopmobility does and the benefit we bring to so many in our community, you will realise that we deliver on these priorities for a very small outlay in terms of grant subsidy.

Another of your priorities is also "Access for All" and, by depriving the disabled residents of our facility, you are taking away that access which gives them day-to-day independence. Do you not feel that their human rights are being violated?

We consider that we have met the criteria as laid out in the document 'Voluntary and Community Grants 2011/2012 – Information to Grant Applicants'.

How do we explain to our users why we can no longer offer our service to them? In order to do that, we must have a clear understanding as to how this analysis was carried out.

We would therefore urge you to reconsider our application and uphold our appeal for grant funding.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Gaye Branch
Chairman